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AN ILLUSTRATED NEWSPAPER FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

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Newly Issued Stamps.



BOLIVAR.—This little South American State which is scarce known to collectors outside of the very little stamps in use therein, has been blessed with four new stamps of respectable dimensions consisting of 5 centavos blue; 10c., violet; 20c., yellow green; 30c., vermillion. The design varies with each value, the only point of resemblance being in the arms of New Grenada, which, with some little points of difference in the arrangement, form the central portion.

Danish West Indies will open the new year with a set of new stamps, when the single value which has been in use since 1860 will give way to four values, as follows:

1 cent,	green frame,	violet centre.
3 cents,	blue "	carmine "
4 "	brown "	blue "
14 "	lilac "	green "

The design consists of an upright oval band, surrounded by a rather pretty rectangular frame, and enclosing a circle containing large figure of value, the circle within a laurel wreath, and surmounted by a crown. In the upper portion of the band is the inscription, DANSE VESTINDISKE OER; beneath, the value. The paper, watermark, and perforations will be similar to those of the Home country.

NORWAY presents a new value, 7 skillings, chocolate, the design being similar to those in actual use, with a watermark of a post-horn.

SIERRA LEONE, it is said, has added a 2 pence, violet, to the series lately emitted.

TASMANIA prints the 5 shilling stamp in rose-lilac, with the watermark Tas.

PHILIPPINES.—The 10 cuartos, rose, of the 1859 type, and the 2 reales, blue, 1863, appear with the surcharge "Habilitado." *Le Timbre Poste* thinks that the Spanish government is too much occupied with matters of a graver nature than to think of sending stamps to the Philippines; the postal authorities in the latter place are therefore obliged to have recourse to its reserve of stamps.

TURK'S ISLAND issue the 1 penny stamp on watermark paper.

SPAIN.—This country, unhappy in itself, however happy may be the collector who possesses specimens of all its stamps, seems to require all its originality in order to suppress the Carlists and the Intransigentes. At least she had not enough left to invent a design for her long promised post card, and therefore had recourse to Belgium, like Servia. An ornamental frame on a white card encloses the stamp and the inscription, REPUBLICA ESPANOLO—TARGETE POSTAL—SR. D . . —DIRECCION, and the lower portion a notice indicating the side reserved for the address, and the place for the message. The stamp which, with the frame is impressed in blue, represents a lion *couchant*, turned towards the left; beneath, ESPAÑA; above, a colored oval enclosing large figure 5 and centim, (the other letters of the value being hidden by the lion's head.) Above the oval is a small head of liberty, or head of smalls liberty, for liberty is very scarce there now—in oval, resting on a bande-rolle containing the word "CORREOS."

This, in general, is the appearance of the new card, which, as we have said, is very imitative. Not content, however, with copying the good things of the Belgian postal, Spain must also come under the ban of being addicted to bad spelling. Belgium wrote *Antwoordt*, and now Spain writes *Targeta*, which gives *Le Timbre Poste* a new discovery. As we do not know everything we look to the latter journal for the correct spelling, and find it *Tarjeta*.

The U. S. Officials.

Mistakes will happen even in the best regulated families, and it seems *Le Timbre Poste* has not escaped. It is laboring under the impression that the stamps of the State Department belong to Congress. However willing Congress might have been, or may be, to employ special

stamps for franking the letters, Pub. Doc's., stoves, or the other light mail matters of the members, the latter are at present obliged to use the ordinary postage stamp. Of course there is plenty of room in the Philatelic world for a new issue, or any number of new issues, and there is no accounting for the vagaries of Congressmen. Under the franking privilege, an M. C. would frank anything, from a letter full of thanks to a hungry constituent, or his latest undelivered speech to the country editor, to a pillow of live geese feathers, or a carriage and horses—as was once actually done. If special stamps were to be adopted there would be values enough to permit of each individual member's portrait gracing (!) the stamp.

For the benefit of our transatlantic confere we will state that the Department of State is distinct from Congress, the latter being a Legislative body, the former one of the Executive branches of the government.

The 3 Kreuzer—Thurn und Taxis.

One of the correspondents of *Le Timbre Poste* has settled all doubts concerning this stamp, by the actual production of authentic specimens. The stamp, he says, was an error of impression, having been impressed in green on white paper, instead of in blue. The greater portion of the stamps on the sheet were sold before the error was detected, after which the remainder were sold to amateurs. In the album of a Swiss collector exists an obliterated specimen of the entire envelope as it passed the post.

Of course every one will be anxious to reserve one of these rarities, but many must be necessarily disappointed.

Stamp Collecting in the Future.

BY *ω*.

I see a great chance for the Future of Philately in America.—F. A. F.

I.—PLAN FOR COLLECTING.

(Continued from page 169.)

Considerable opposition has been manifested from the start against all systems of collecting which went beyond the *generic* issues of each country and began searching among *specific* varieties. The opposition caused collectors to arrange themselves under several schools. Some, with a blindness and perversity which have since met with spirited rebuke, sought neatness and simplicity at the expense of mutilation, by never sparing the scissors. And stamps of all species, whether adhesive or envelope stamps, were trimmed with the most scrupulous exact-

ness lest there should be found the least trace of margin. French album-makers were, in a great measure, responsible for the advance of this species of iconoclasm, by the use of ruled spaces of the exact shape of the stamps. Hence the stamps of Ceylon, Tasmania, and others with indented framework, and all envelope stamps were ruthlessly shorn of all margin and *pasted* in the spaces so marked out for them. As collectors grew older and found that any value attached to their stamps became deteriorated in proportion to the cuts of the scissors, they became wiser, and eschewed close trimming, except in the case of envelopes, which, however, need a separate discussion.

The necessity of a wide margin next forced itself upon the attention of collectors, and led naturally to the distinction between perforated and unperforated stamps. This distinction and its consequent study met with considerable opposition, and friends and opponents soon arrayed themselves against one another, arming themselves with the high sounding titles of respectively "English School," and "French School."

While it is not necessary to enumerate the different advantages claimed by each system, it may be well to note that the French school so-called, is the only real system upon which the amateur can have any hopes of attaining perfection and consequently satisfaction in the collection of postage stamps and stamped envelopes. And although there may yet be many collectors who will cavil at the niceties and hair-splitting tendencies of those two amateurs who see significance in, for instance, the different characters of perforation, and may be inclined to burlesque their earnestness, let the latter be consoled by this fact, that no matter how trivial the change, be it in perforation, watermark, shade, or texture of paper, there are abundant official reasons for the change; and that furthermore, these changes are but different steps towards the attainment of a great popular convenience in the management of government affairs.

Under this general scientific plan here hinted at, there are two classes of collectors, who are in no way antagonistic to one another, but are guided simply by questions of taste, and embrace those who collect, canceled stamps, and those who devote themselves to getting uncanceled specimens. Each class has its advantages, each its disadvantages, and each therefore in its own domain, has a limited field wherein to work. As a consequence, each is continually venturing upon the ground of the other, without however feeling that it is an intruder, or that its actions are governed otherwise than by necessity.

To explain more fully: The collector of obliterated specimens starts out with the intention of obtaining fine specimens of canceled stamps only. Of course it is easy, more or less, for him to get all the different species of varieties, particularly in respect of shades, in which he is

wont to revel, and perhaps go to extremes, usually taking no account of the natural but none the less accidental, causes which play such pranks with many colors. But he knows before long that it is impossible to find good specimens of some issues, and, as in the case of Ionian Islands, and others that could be named, canceled specimens are practically unattainable. Therefore he applies to his neighbor and satisfies his wants. He consoles himself however, for this little vexation of spirit, by the feeling that he can never be fooled with reprints—those ghosts of stamps that fill the soul of every true amateur with horror.

Turning now to the seeker after immaculate stamps, his success is dependent solely upon the length of his purse, for with very few exceptions he is always able to obtain what he desires, failing in which, he goes to his friends on the other side. He makes a broad distinction in the case of U. S. Locals and Confederate stamps. These he must have canceled, or on the original letter or envelope, as the only sure proof of their authenticity, failing to obtain which, he ignores them altogether.

The elements of these two classes serve as the true principles which lie at the foundation of the only correct plan of collecting. These principles well studied will afford the collector the greatest amount of pleasure and satisfaction. They will teach him to ignore canceled stamps of low values if he cannot obtain the high values in like condition. In other words they will teach him UNIFORMITY, the great secret of successful collecting. They will make him proof against the pretended virtues of reprints, and perhaps check the questionable policy of those Post Office Departments which, rather than submit to the small evil of being pestered by anxious collectors, give way to the great one of reprinting what had long since lost all the inherent features of a postage stamp.

These principles will, furthermore, beget the spirit of inquiry and research, and an insight into the motives and causes of all changes, and thus prove the greatest safeguard to the impositions of swindling dealers who invariably take a great amount of trouble to make themselves and their nefarious occupations known; and then with an air of injured innocence call all the world fools, and try to bespatter honest men with that mud in which these tailors of geography and tinkers of colors have been so long wallowing.

NOTE.—As stamped envelopes are of equal importance as adhesives, it may be deemed wise to postpone until another occasion, all discussion as to the manner in which they shall be collected and mounted; furthermore, as there is as yet no generally accepted plan upon which to mount entire envelopes, it is better to wait until amateurs shall have made up their minds before they undertake any experiments which do not thoroughly embody all the elements which enter so largely into the proper collecting and mounting of envelopes.

Prussian Reprints.

Incredible as it may seem the Prussian government has reprinted the first series of its stamps for sale to collectors. We can well understand

the doubts with which this statement will be received by collectors, for it seems scarcely possible to conceive that a reputable government would descend so low to make a few dollars by swindling collectors. In our opinion the government is not so guilty as it would appear at first sight, and probably are not to blame at all, as it is very probable that the stamps have been prepared under a misapprehension of the true wants of amateurs. Of course every German stamp collector desires to obtain a complete uncanceled set of the stamps of his own country, and the government may have been considerably bothered by applications for sets of stamps; but these, if investigated, would prove to have come from amateurs who hoped that some original sets might be found, or from collectors too impecunious to purchase when there was a chance to beg. These collectors may be divided into two classes; first, true amateurs who desire to possess a genuine set of the stamps actually issued by the government to the post offices at the time the particular issue was in use, and he saw with disgust the attempt of the government to swindle his brother amateur (who may not be as well skilled in the science as himself) with a set of valueless reprints which are scarcely better than actual counterfeits, as they have no historical value whatever, and however well the originals may have been copied, (and we must say in the present case great care has been used, the watermarks and colors of the papers being nearly perfect), would not be accepted by any amateurs with a knowledge of their worthless character, and the fact of the government charging the face value of the impressions seems to the uninitiated a guarantee of their genuineness and originality. Besides this swindle in regard to the age of the impression, perpetrated on the amateur who is lacking the reprinted stamps, there is a far greater wrong committed on the actual possessor of the original stamps now reprinted, and if the heads of the department were aware of, or had ever thought over the facts, we do not think there is a government in the world base enough to defraud so respectable and influential a class as stamp collectors generally are. Say for instance a collector purchases a stamp, the original value of which was one cent, for seventy-five dollars, he does this with the certain knowledge that there are but six at the outside in existence, and well knows that any time he can realize nearly all it cost him, and the chances are that if he keeps his collection five years he will get double the amount back that he paid for it; but after a while he finds out that the government is reprinting the stamp he paid seventy-five dollars for, which reduces the value of his stamp to the original cost of one cent, by which means he is the loser of seventy-four dollars and ninety-nine cents, through no fault of his own, and without being of benefit to anyone, or even pleasing a single collector, for as long as all stamps are common there is no pleasure in collecting them. If every man was worth a million dollars money would be valueless.

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EXTRACT FROM PREFACE.

In the present state of knowledge concerning revenue stamps, it is simply impossible to make the book perfect, nor would it be advisable to do so, if the necessary data were at hand, as the supply of these labels is, at present very limited, which would in that case, make it impossible to fill the album. Perhaps the greatest charm in collecting revenue stamps consists in the uncertainty and romance connected with it; nearly every amateur having specimens in his album which are totally unknown to his brother collectors, and there being no definite value or degrees of value yet established; but, of course, this state of things is rapidly passing away, and ere many years, or even months have elapsed, collectors will awake to the knowledge that they have some priceless varieties amongst their revenue stamps, which, perhaps, have only cost them two or three cents.

Taking these facts into consideration, spaces have only been prepared for well-known and obtainable series of foreign revenue stamps; but by the plentiful distribution of blank pages throughout the book ample room has been secured for all fiscal stamps that may be acquired by the owner. In regard to the emission of the United States the case is very different, as nearly every American Philatelist is desirous of obtaining a complete set of the fiscal stamps of his own country. Therefore great care has been taken to provide space for every stamp that has ever been issued by our own country, with the exception of beer, spirit, and tobacco stamps, which it has been pronounced illegal to collect, but as large numbers do collect them sufficient blank pages have been left for their accommodation, and taking into consideration their large size, they can be arranged with equal facility without the aid of lines.



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